

## NEWS.

OUR ASSOCIATE, Dr. Fritz Noll, has been promoted to an assistant professorship in the University of Bonn.

M. GEORGES VILLE, Professor of Vegetable Physiology at the Museum (Paris), died February 22, aged 63 years.

PROFESSOR TEODORO CARUEL has retired by his own desire from the active duties of the professorship of botany in the University of Florence.

M. GASTON BONNIER, Professor of Botany at the Sorbonne, has been elected member of the Academy of Sciences in place of the late Mr. Trécul.

DR. C. VON ETTINGSHAUSEN, Professor of Botany at the University of Graz, well known for his paleobotanical work, died February 1, aged 61 years.

PROFESSOR CONWAY MACMILLAN has published "Notes for teachers on the geographical distribution of plants" in the first number of *Journal of School Geography*.

DR. L. JURÁNYI, professor of botany and director of the botanic garden and institute of the Royal University of Hungary, died at Abbazia on February 27, in the sixtieth year of his age.

A GOLD MEDAL has been bestowed on Professor Jakob Eriksson of Stockholm by the Royal Swedish College of Agriculture in recognition of his studies into the life history of grain rusts.

MR. E. P. SHELDON, formerly connected with the University of Minnesota, has undertaken the exploration of the Blue mountains of Oregon, under a commission from the National Herbarium.

THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT is asked to appropriate two million dollars for the establishment of the Botanical Garden of the University of Berlin and its Museum, and the pharmaceutical laboratory.

AT THE MEETING of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, held on the evening of April 5, Mr. H. C. Irish presented a paper on the relations of the unfolding of plants in spring to meteorological conditions, in which were embodied deductions drawn from a series of observations made at the Missouri Botanical Garden, and those by other observers, extending back to the time of Stillingfleet, in the last century.

DR. EDSON S. BASTIN, Professor of Materia Medica and Botany at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, died recently at the age of 54. He is best known to botanists as the author of *Elements of Botany* and *College Botany*.

DR. E. B. COPELAND has been appointed assistant professor of botany in the University of Indiana, *vice* Dr. Geo. J. Peirce, who resigned to accept a similar position, in charge of plant physiology in Leland Stanford Junior University.

THE MICHIGAN Wild Flower Co. of Rochester, Mich., lists about 750 species of native plants which can be supplied in such quantities as may be desired. Their offer will be serviceable to those who wish to obtain native plants in good growing condition for experimental or illustrative purposes.

ALEXANDER suggests<sup>1</sup> a trick for preserving a celloidin block from which the cutting of a series of sections is proceeding, in case the cutting has to be interrupted. Heretofore it has been necessary to remove the block and place it in alcohol. In this way several sections are apt to be lost, as it is impossible to replace it in the microtome in the exact plane occupied before. Alexander slips over the block a glass tube which fits and into which alcohol is poured. The tube may then be closed with a cork.

DR. JOSEPH F. JAMES died at Hingham, Mass., March 29, at the age of forty. His numerous botanical writings have appeared in various journals. For nearly twelve years he was an instructor in botany in Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, Miami University, and Maryland Agricultural College. He was also in government employ in various positions, in connection with the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, and with the United States Geological Survey. His writings show him to have been a painstaking student, especially given to bibliographical work.

A LETTER from Mr. John C. Willis, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, Ceylon, expresses his desire that American botanists will avail themselves of the opportunities which he is able to give them. Ceylon is virgin territory for most botanical work, and has the advantage of having a thoroughly good "Flora" (Trimen's) already written. Mr. Willis reports a greater variety of climate than most tropical regions, and therefore a great variety of plants. The island is beautiful, traveling is easy, living fairly cheap, and Colombo has lines of steamers from all quarters.

PROFESSOR CONWAY MACMILLAN sails June 9 on the Germanic from New York to Liverpool. He will spend some time abroad, having been specially commissioned by the regents of the University of Minnesota to prosecute investigations in the old world capitals. During his absence the

<sup>1</sup>Zeitschrift f. wiss. Mikroskopie 13:— Cf. Bot. Cent.

Department of Botany will be in charge of Mr. Francis Ramaley from June 1 to September 1, and thereafter in charge of Assistant Professor D. T. MacDougal until Professor MacMillan's return. Professor MacMillan's London address will be 40 Bedford Place, Bloomsbury Sq., W. C.

THE SPRING NUMBER of the *Fern Bulletin* contains sixteen pages of interesting matter for fern lovers. C. E. Waters writes regarding *Asplenium Bradleyi* and its occurrence along the Patapsco river near Baltimore, Md. Geo. E. Davenport records the stocking of a natural fernery during the last twenty years by means of spores brought by the wind from considerable distances. A. A. Eaton describes a new quillwort under the name of *Isoetes Montezumæ*. It was collected by C. G. Pringle in Mexico. C. F. Saunders writes about *Asplenium montanum*, and L. M. Underwood calls attention to the desirability of collectors securing ample notes and specimens of the various forms of *Botrychium ternatum* to aid in determining relationship. There are other articles in the number, and also three excellent illustrations.

THE LLOYD distribution of photogravures of fungi has recently been extended to nos. 15 and 16. The first is a very perfect plate of a number of specimens of *Lycoperdon gemmatum* Batsch, and the last gives a mass of *Clavaria stricta* Pers, and also of *C. coronata* Schw. The high standard of the work is maintained.

Mr. Lloyd has also printed a second statement of the condition of his recently projected mycological museum, covering the years 1895 and 1896, practically the whole time of active growth. On the first of January 1897 the museum contained 1431 specimens, representing 760 species of fleshy or woody fungi. The soft forms are preserved in alcohol. Formalin has been tried but with poor results in most cases. Contributions to this collection, which is accessible to all visitors, will be gratefully acknowledged.

THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING of the Michigan Academy of Science was held at Ann Arbor March 31 to April 2. In the section of botany, over which Professor F. C. Newcombe presided, the following papers were presented: Comments on the nature of the work suited to a botanical club of an agricultural college, by *W. J. Beal*; The mechanism of root curvature, by *James B. Pollock*; Remarks concerning the saprophytic fungi grown in the vicinity of Agricultural College, by *B. O. Longyear*; The Russian thistle and tumbling mustard in Michigan, and some Alpena county plants observed in 1896, by *C. F. Wheeler*; Early stages in the development of the pollen in *Asclepias Cornuti*, by *Fanny E. Langdon*; A remarkable forest in Michigan not hitherto known, by *S. Alexander*. Among the new officers elected are Dr. Volney M. Spalding, president, and Professor C. F. Wheeler, vice president of the section of botany. The secretary of the Academy is Professor Walter B. Barrows, Agricultural College, Michigan.